



By the King.

A Proclamation for the ordering of the Use of the hot Presse.



Orasmuch as it hath beene euer the policie of all wel-gouerned Commonwealths, to p̄serue the estimation of their native Commodities which they vent in Forraine parts, thereby to maintaine their Commerce and Trafficke with other Nations. And whereas the Cloath of this Kingdome is one of the richest and noblest Merchandise of the same, and the reputation thereof hath in all ages beene upheld and provided for, by the providence of many good Lawes established for the preventing of all deceits in the making, dying, dressing, and ordering thereof, and for the punishing of those misdemeanours which could not be prevented. And whereas amongst many other good Lawes, one was especially enacted and ordeined in the fifth yeere of the Reigne of King Edward the first, late King of England, whereby the Use of the hot Presse is expressly forbidden, for the pressing of any kind of Cloth, vpon paine of forfeiture of the Cloth so pressed; it being then discovered, that such kind of pressing of Clothes with the hot Presse, did giue a false and deceitful lustre to them for the present, but when it shall come to the wearing, the falsitie thereof would appeare, to the discredit of the Merchant, and dishonour of Our Nation.

And whereas we haue beene lately informed by the Certificate of diuers of Our louing Subjects, Merchants of the best sort and vnderstanding, that of later times, the Clothes which are called Perpetuanoes, Mil-Sayes, and the like, commonly knowen by the name of the New Draperie, which are frequently vented from hence into forreine parts, are of that qualitie, that they are not vendible there, vnlesse they haue a glosse put vpon them by the hot Presse; and that if the same be handled vnskillfully, and martificially, they are often returned backe to be pressed better and with more art: And we are also informed, that as the vse of the hot Presse vpon Broad-clothes, fine Kerlies, Cottons, Penistons, Freezes, and Bridgewater Redds, would be very preiudiciall, and dishonorable to be allowed, so the not vsing of the hot Presse vpon the courser sort of Kerlies, and vpon Perpetuanoes, Mil-Sayes, and other Clothes or Stuffs of these sorts, called by the name of the New-Draperie, would much hinder our Merchants in their Trade and Commerce: We therefore intending so to moderate the rigor of Our Lawes, and to fit them for the present times, as might giue best encouragement to Our louing Subjects, and maintaine the ancient honour of English Cloth in all forraine Kingdomes, haue thought fit to quicken the said Law in those cases, where the Use of the hot Presse is fit to be vtterly suppressed, and to moderate the rigor thereof in these cases, where the necessitie of the times require a mitigation. Wherefore we will and command, and by these presents strictly charge, and enioyne, that no person, or persons whatsoener, doe from henceforth presume, directly or indirectly to presse with the hot Presse any broad Cloth, fine Kerlies, Cottons, Penistons, Freezes, and Bridgewater Redds, vpon the paines contained within the said Statute.

And to the intent, that Our louing Subjects may not want any conuenient meanes to vent their Merchandise to their best aduantage, (the reputation of Our Cloth, and the honour of Our

Kingdome being allwaies preserved, which wee ever shall be tender of,) wee doe hereby signifie and declare, that we are well pleased, that such of Our loving Subjects as are skilfull, and well experienced in the Use of the hot Presse, may at any time, or times hereafter, presse with the hot Presse, the courser sort of Kerfies, Perpetuanes, Mill-Sayes, and the other sort of Clothes or Stuffs commonly known by the name of the New-Draperie, and worsted, and woollen Stockins, according to such limitations, and directions, as are in these presents mentioned, and not other wise.

Nevertheless, because we doe not thinke it fit, that every man that will, shall assume unto himselfe this Trade, which in it selfe, is by the Law prohibited, but such onely, as by their long vsing therof, are and shal be skilfull, and well approued of for their ability to performe the same: wee straitly charge and command, That no man presume from henceforth to vse the hot Presse, or to set on worke, or employ any that shall vse the hot Presse, but such persons onely, as by their seruice, or long experience therein, haue giuen testimony and assurance of their skills, and ability to performe that seruice and workmanship well and artificially, aswell to restraine the inordinate multitude of that Trade, to the discouragement of such as haue bene trayned by therein, as also to assure the Merchants and others, hauing occasion to employ such workemen, that they shall not be abused in the workmanship aforesaid: wherein we strictly charge and command, That those Cautions be obserued by all such as are, or shall bee admitted, and allowed to be Pressors, which we haue already declared and set downe at large vnder our priue Seale, dated the fourteenth day of this instant March, by the consent, and good liking, and at the humble desires of the Pressors themselves.

And further, we doe hereby signifie, and declare Our Royall Will and pleasure to be, That no Pressor or Pressors, vsing the hot Presse in such cases onely, and according to the tenor of Our said priue Seale, and the limitations therein expresse, shall from henceforth by any Suite, Information, Seizure, or other Proccesse, or proceeding to be commenced, brought, or prosecuted in any Our Courts of Record, or otherwise be molested, sued, vexed, or inquieted, for, or by meanes of the said Statute before mentioned, or any thing therein contained.

And to the end, that none shall hereafter hope for, or expect any more fauour, or conuience, then is already expresse in the said priue Seale; wee doe by these presents, strictly command and charge, That from, and after the Date of this Our Proclamation, no person, or persons whatsoever, shall at any time hereafter presume to set vp any hot Presse, or Presses, or make vse of any that they haue set vp already, saving such as are or shall be allowed so to doe, according to Our pleasure, and direction expresse in Our said priue Seale. And that, for those that are allowed and admitted to vse the hot Presse, none of them doe presume to set vp, or make vse of any more Presse, or Presses, then the exact number allowed, and prescribed vnto them, vpon paine of hauing the said Presse or Presses, so vnlawfully erected and vled, demolished and broke in pieces, as often as they shall be found Offenders therein, contrary to this Our Proclamation, and the Articles to that effect authorized, and approued by Our said priue Seale, as aforesaid: And also vpon paine of Our indignation, and such further punishments, as by Our Lawes, or Prerogative Royall, may be likewise inflicted vpon them.

And lastly, for the due accomplishment of Our pleasure herein, wee doe strictly charge and command the Lord Mayor of London for the time being, and all other Mayors, Sheriffes, Iustices of Peace, Bailiffes, Constables, Head borowhs, and all other Our Officers, and Ministers whomsoever, from time to time in their severall Offices and places, to be ayding, and assisting, and to take care, as much as in them is, that Our Royall Will and commandement herein, and by Our said priue Seale declared, may be duely and exactly obserued, as they tender Our seruice, and will answere the contrary.

Giuen at Our Palace of Westminster the two and twentieth day of March, in the seuenteenth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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